



2019 ANNUAL REPORT





Dr. Brian Landes | SPE President

Nearly 10 months ago, my journey as SPE president began at ANTEC® 2019 in Detroit. It seems like yesterday. During my opening remarks to Council, we marveled together at the innovation engine that drives the plastics industry. Our innovations in transportation, food preservation, energy conservation, clean water generation and accessibility, healthcare and infrastructure continue to have a tremendous positive impact on the quality of life around the world. The work we do matters and enables so much of the health and wellness we enjoy daily. However, we also discussed the changing worldview of our industry – an image which today is largely based on what our life’s work has never been designed to be... plastic waste. The world conversation had changed – so we changed our conversation as well.

We set our aspirations toward creating a more sustainable industry and world. We began to consider how we could use our collective strength in knowledge and networking to develop a sustainable foundation for SPE. History has proven that the insurmountable can become possible with collective resolve. SPE is engaging in communities and across disciplines, industries, organizations and governments. We are expanding our network to provide greater access to knowledge, professional development, business partnerships and global awareness of SPE. These efforts are enriching our members and our industry – as the innovators who will help to preserve our world for generations to come – but also serve to help educate our current and future decision-makers about how our collective resolve can capture the benefits of plastics during use and effectively manage the inherent resource value of plastics after use. While there is much left to do, we aspire through this engagement to further change the conversation to enable innovation.

As I pause in my journey to assess, I am thrilled by the engagement of our members. Many have volunteered for chapter leadership, committees and task forces that have been charged with providing greater member value. I have thoroughly enjoyed engaging with hundreds of members by phone, hundreds more via email and countless in personal conversation at SPE events and functions. Each of these interactions are filled with innovative ideas for member offerings, industry opportunities and a true passion for SPE! This collective resolve combined with inclusive, innovative thinking has directly inspired new offerings in chapter and event support, a new SPE open source journal (SPE Polymers), new webinar topics, new website capabilities, a revitalized ANTEC® and childcare provision for parents at ANTEC®. Increased international engagement is leading to potential new events in Eastern Europe, Central America and Southeast Asia. Our cross organizational interactions have led to increased visibility for SPE and engagement opportunities with the Alliance to End Plastic Waste, the National Science Foundation (identifying and seeding research directions for the broader engineering research community), the US Department of Energy (alignment and investment for US industry competitiveness; sustainable manufacturing) and the National Academy of Engineering (Leadership Summit on Diversity and Inclusion). Engagement for and by our members grows and enriches the SPE network while multiplying inroads for innovation and problem solving that our world and industry desperately need.

With the beginning of a new decade and a role as past president on my near horizon, I am thankful for how you have engaged with me in 2019 and for the tireless service our staff dedicates to the society, both in implementing the strategy and the care shown to individual members. As the quote says, the best part of this journey is who we get to share it with. As we move forward together, I’m counting on each of you to contribute to the power we have together and to savor the great fulfillment, teamwork and satisfaction. **Your ideas, energy and passion are what will lead to the revolutionary innovations and innovators that SPE, our communities, our industry and our world need for generations to come.**



“A journey of 1000 miles must begin with a single step.”

Lao Tzu, Chinese philosopher and writer

“The best part of life’s journey is who you get to share it with.”

Unknown



Significant Achievements in 2019 Include:

PATRICK FARREY SPE CEO



- » Relocated SPE HQ from a Class C building in Bethel, CT to a Class A building in Danbury, CT with no increase in rent costs and a rent abatement to offset 80% of the cost of a complete furniture upgrade.



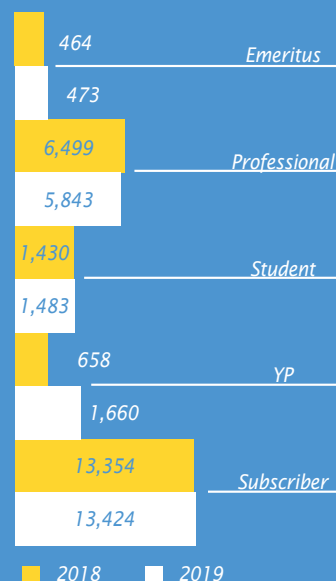
- » Completed a total overhaul of SPE technology platforms, resulting in more robust capabilities and an annual savings of over \$150,000.

Operations

Membership

- » Membership grew by 4%
- » Furthered SPE's commitment to global industry engagement through the CEO's attendance at events across the U.S. and in Montreal Canada, Manama Bahrain, Dusseldorf Germany and Mumbai India.
- » Began planning for new 2020 SPE events to be held in Medellín Colombia and Budapest Hungary.
- » Joined the *Societies Consortium on Sexual Harassment in STEMM* to further the Society's commitment to a safe, diverse, inclusive environment within the SPE community.
- » Partnered with PLASTICS Industry Association to support *This is Plastics*, an interactive web-based tool sharing the positive, science-based information about the role of plastic in daily life.
- » Expanded the support of student and young professional members by extending the free membership offered to students throughout their academic career into the first two years of their professional work.
- » Welcomed SPE's first two major supporters, Preferred Partners, *Townsend* and *ACCEDE*.

Members By Type



22,926
members



84
countries

Publications

Journal Highlights

2019 was an outstanding year for the SPE publications: *Polymer Engineering & Science*, *Polymer Composites*, *Journal of Vinyl & Additive Technology*. Look for the launch of SPE's new open access journal *SPE POLYMERS* in 2020!

Scholarly articles coming from countries such as India and China now outpace those from our traditional academic centers in North America and Europe.

Structural changes in the publishing world indicate that open-source platforms will become more important in the future. This development will reshape how authors are paid, how people access articles, and how associations such as our own can generate revenue.



Announced the retirement of long-time journal editor Dr. Alan Lesser and the hiring of new Editor-in-Chief Dr. Sadhan Jana. Also added Dr. Brian Grady to the journal's editorial team.



2,441
new submissions



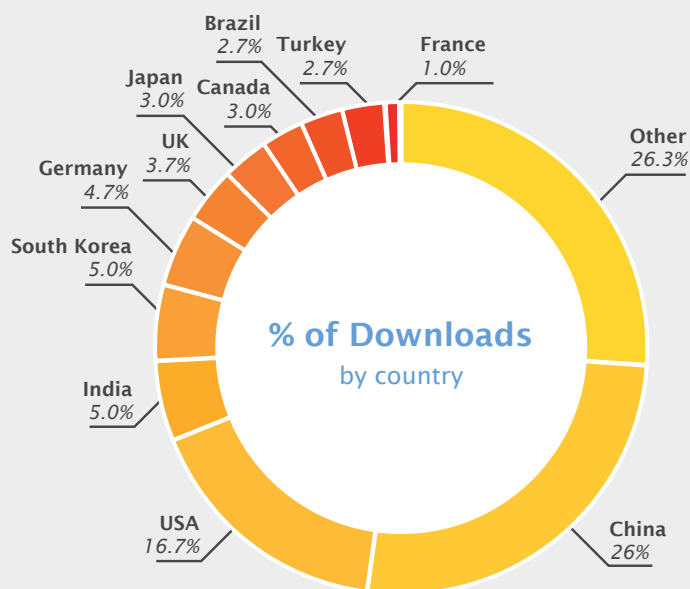
588,876
full text article
downloads



6
Special Issues



10
Online Open
Articles Published



Plastics Engineering Highlights

New in 2019 – a series of articles written with the young professional in mind. Articles are based on questions submitted by young professionals or students on how to navigate this industry or their new job.

Continued improvements in the magazine branding to coincide with readership demographics.



15,000+

items now in the SPE Online Library, including both technical and non-technical information for members



Governance

- » Enhanced and improved the HQ Chapter support services along with a more equitable financial structure for those services.
- » With the near-unanimous support of Council, SPE undertook an important review of its entire governance structure and agreed to several significant changes to support the future success of the Society.



SPE Foundation

EVE VITALE Chief Executive, SPE Foundation



24,535
students experienced
PlastiVan®



\$113,250
in scholarships awarded
to 46 students at 27
colleges and universities

37
donors



raised \$10,509 for
PlastiVan® on Giving
Tuesday, supporting
1,400+ students

\$43,635
total grant dollars

\$38,000+ raised from
membership renewal donations

With support from
SPE Members, the
SPE Foundation
educates, inspires,
and fosters our
future workforce,
carrying forward
the important work
that they do.

For more
information on the
SPE Foundation,
visit 4spe.org/foundation

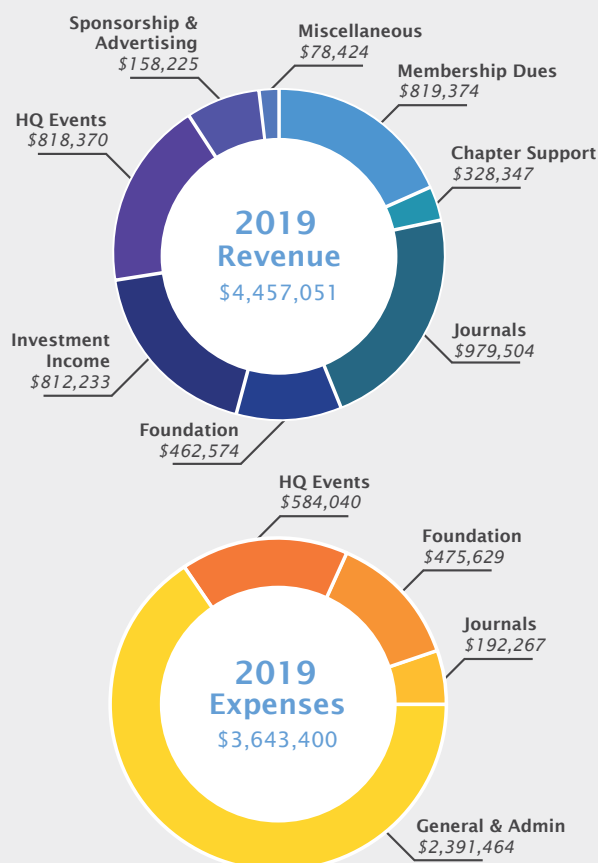


Financial Review

JEREMY DWORSHAK Vice President of Business & Finance

2019 Balance Sheet Summary

Assets	2019	2018
Current Assets	\$840,820	\$857,476
Fixed Assets	\$112,374	\$33,830
Other Assets	\$5,895,288	\$5,065,367
Total Assets	\$6,848,482	\$5,956,673
Liabilities	2019	2018
Current Liabilities	\$127,790	\$76,119
Long-Term Liabilities	\$3,278,311	\$3,251,825
Total Liabilities	\$3,406,101	\$3,327,944
Equity	\$3,442,381	\$2,628,729
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$6,848,482	\$5,956,673



(Preliminary and Unaudited)



Engaging the Next Generation of Plastics Professionals

LYNZIE NEBEL Vice President of Young Professionals

When adding up the 2019 gains, I think it's safe to say SPE's pledge to engage young professionals in our organization has been proven.

From supporting NGAB, personally reaching out to new young professionals, providing a limited-time free membership to recent graduates and gearing programs and information to the under-35 crowd, SPE has shown the desire to reinvigorate the society and there are no signs of backing off on that trend.



Next Gen Advisory Board (NGAB)

With Erin Keaney at the helm, NGAB was able to pull off some wildly successful gatherings in 2019. NGAB wasn't all events though, they developed a services checklist that was distributed to each Section and Division which lists items that NGAB members are happy to help groups with.



Young Professional Webinars

In the same breath as the magazine articles, a series of webinars have been created with the intention of promoting non-technical, soft skill-type information.

PlastChicks

The podcast that everyone in the plastics industry is buzzing about. The 8 episodes published as of December 2019 will entertain you, educate you and inspire you. Plans are underway to record an additional 12 episodes at ANTEC® 2020. Interviewees included SPE CEO Pat Farrey, Foundation Chief Executive Eve Vitale and SPE Fellow John Beaumont.



Educating the Plastics Industry

DR. RAY PEARSON Vice President of Technology & Education

SPE will be expanding their educational programs by offering professional development courses. The facilities at the new SPE Headquarters in Danbury, CT are an ideal location to hold such courses. Additionally we are exploring holding courses at ANTEC® and various topical conferences.





Engaging Our Volunteers

DR. JASON LYONS Vice President of Divisions

Within our Society, Divisions have historically been technology-focused and as such, provide an ideal platform to disseminate knowledge to our membership. **This transference of information is critical to our success as a Society and it is perfectly aligned with our North Star of "Knowledge & Networking".**



In 2019 we created one new Division, the Building & Infrastructure Division.

Chapter groups make a difference in the lives of plastic professionals. Through continued and increased collaboration across chapter groups, both Sections and Divisions, we will continue to bring value to those in our industry across the globe.



DR. SCOTT EASTMAN Vice President of Sections

SPE sections have been abuzz with activity in 2019. Planning local networking events, awarding student scholarships and providing peer advice are just a few of their accomplishments achieved. Other highlights include:



Inauguration of Leadership Roundtable at ANTEC® 2019

Over 75 of our Societies' Chapter leaders participated in this session at ANTEC® to meet their peers, discuss common challenges and share their successes toward a common purpose of growing together as a Society.



5

new student chapters established

Student Chapters provide unique opportunities for networking, mentoring and bonding over common interests. They also provide support both within the student community and their sponsoring chapter.

- » Lakehead University – Sponsored by the Ontario Section
- » National Textile University – Sponsored by the Middle East Section
- » University of Oklahoma – Sponsored by the Oklahoma Section
- » University of Ontario Institute of Technology – Sponsored by the Ontario Section
- » University of California, Berkeley – Sponsored by the Golden Gate Section



Educating the Plastics Industry

BRUCE MULHOLLAND Vice President of Events

SPE events are instrumental to the mission of the Society; helping plastics professionals to succeed and strengthen their skills through networking, events, training and knowledge sharing. **We help educate the plastics industry through conferences run by SPE headquarters, conferences run by SPE Chapters, webinars, tutorials, journals and publications.**



ANTEC®

SPE headquarters hosted ANTEC® 2019 held in Detroit, MI. Attended by over 1,200 people from 575 companies living in 28 countries, ANTEC® offered a diverse mix of technical presentations from virtually any topic related to polymer formulation, processing, testing, design and end use, as well as numerous business networking opportunities.



1,200+
attendees



28
countries

Webinars

SPE built a much stronger webinar program with topics ranging from in-depth technical presentations to those that touched soft skills for new managers or young professionals. Over 7,350 people participated in a total of 32 webinars given during 2019.



32
webinars



7,350+
attendees

Chapter Events

SPE Chapters organize technical meetings, facility/plant tours and networking events year-round. In 2019 SPE Conferences hosted by SPE chapters reached over 6,000 individuals at locations spanning the globe from Cleveland to Anaheim to Frankfurt to Bahrain to Mumbai to Singapore to Shanghai. Additionally, a number of tutorials focusing on fundamentals within a specific area of expertise were given in conjunction with these conferences.



6,000+
attendees



20+
technical
conferences

Through all of these channels, we expect to reach even more plastics professionals at SPE events conducted during 2020.

Celebrating Inspiring Plastics Professionals

SPE and our affiliated chapters are proud to present a multitude of awards and recognition honoring the many contributions made on behalf of the Society and to our industry. The most prestigious awards are the President's Cup and the SPE Annual Awards which were presented at SPE's annual conference ANTEC® during the ACCLAIM-Celebrating Inspiring Plastics Professionals Reception. See all of the award winners honored at ANTEC® 2019 at 4spe.org/awards.



SPE Annual Awards

The SPE Annual Awards honor excellence in education, research and engineering technology, and recognize lifetime achievements in the plastics industry. The 2019 Award winners were:



International Award
Dr. Sindee L. Simon



Annual Award for Education
Prof. Anil K. Bhowmick



**Annual Award for Research/
Engineering Technology**
Dr. Mark A. Spalding



The President's Cup recipient for 2019 was presented to William Arendt.

Plastics for Life

The Plastics for Life global parts competition honors plastic products that help improve the quality of life, and in many cases help extend and protect life. The winners of the 6th Annual competition are:



Grand Prize:
2019 Sierra
LD Thick Light Bar

People's Choice:

Brewcraft's Genesis 6 Gallon Carboy Fermenter

Improving Life:

ThermaPANEL

Protecting Life:

Integrated Tire Carrier, Rear Camera & Brake Light Assembly on the 2018 Jeep Wrangler

Quality of Life:

Pickup Truck Lightweight & Portable Cargo Organization System

Sustaining Life:

Simply Orange Bottle in Clear EBM PET



Creating a Modern, Dynamic Executive Board

CONOR CARLIN Vice President of Marketing and Communications

With increased competition from other associations and for-profit trade event managers, it is critical that SPE stands out from the crowd. In 2019 we developed and maintained a stronger brand image, and delivered unimpeachable technical content to members. We also invested in people and platforms.



At the same time, the SPE Executive Board began to evolve to reflect not only the changing needs of our members and the plastics industry, but also to adapt to their governance structure when necessary to realign board positions to their “North Star”.



Succession Planning

DR. BRIAN GRADY 2018–2019 President

As SPE continues to progress towards accomplishing its strategic goals, it is vital to elect a diverse group of executive board (EB) members who represent our industry and share a passion for SPE’s mission.

To accomplish this, SPE is identifying and developing future leaders. Activities to help strengthen their leadership skills are provided through involvement in our Next Gen Board, mentoring program and soft skills educational programs. This allows SPE to build a strong leadership pipeline, ensuring an effective executive board for SPE’s future.





What's Ahead for SPE?

DR. JAIME A. GOMEZ President-Elect

The process to make SPE more aligned with the times commenced a couple of years ago when we defined our 'North Star'. **Our evaluation was simple: either we adapt to the times or we become irrelevant; and thus, the word RELEVANCE took on a new meaning for us.**

Far-reaching changes were needed. A great deal of progress has been made since I became a member of the executive board 7 years ago. We streamlined our financial reporting, cut costs, retained qualified people, moved to a new headquarters, began the process of modifying ANTEC® and made operations more transparent to our members. We are just about to conclude this process by making the most significant advancement to our bylaws in our history, so SPE can become more agile and in tune with the times.



SPE brings extraordinary value to members, companies, universities, government institutions and other organizations.

To increase this value continuously, we will adopt a plan to keep abreast of industry changes including new areas of research and/or issues facing the plastics community. A timely review of our "North Star" to re-evaluate our purpose, our products and our customers (current and potential) will be executed constantly so it allows us to create new educational programs to meet industry and member needs. The format and location of these programs vary but will include new events, webinars, a new open access journal, videos, podcasts, and more. By giving individuals the tools necessary to meet their personal or professional goals and our industry partners skilled workers, we will ensure a strong workforce for the future.



It's our responsibility to make the plastics world a better place. By providing a forum that generates a strong awareness of issues facing the plastics community we can look at solutions that will benefit everyone. Join SPE and help us bring about real change. Together we will make a difference.

www.4spe.org/JoinNow



**INSPIRING
PLASTICS
PROFESSIONALS**

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